

Message Text

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS: EFIN, EI

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE AND REACTION TO THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT

SUMMARY

REACTION OF IRISH NEWS MEDIA TO RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT WAS
MISSED. WHILE MOST OBSERVERS THOUGHT IT USEFUL THAT THE
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MEETING WAS HELD, MOST WERE DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF

CONCRETE RESULTS. IN GENERAL, THERE WAS A NOTE OF RESENTMENT OVER THE FACT THAT FOUR EC MEMBERS ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE WITHOUT HAVING COORDINATED WITH THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD IN A SPEECH DELIVERED NOVEMBER 17 MADE A PARTICULAR POINT OF THE LACK OF PRIOR CONSULTATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. END OF SUMMARY

1. IRISH NEWS MEDIA, IN ADDITION TO STRAIGHT REPORTING OF COMMUNIQUE AND OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, HAVE CARRIED A GREAT DEAL OF COMMENTARY ON RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT. "IRISH TIMES" IN EDITORIAL STATED THAT, "ALL IN ALL IT WAS BETTER THAT THE MEETING WAS HELD THAN THAT IT WAS NOT HELD. SOME BASIC DIFFERENCES SURELY WERE RECONCILED - OR, AT LEAST, BETTER UNDERSTOOD. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW GENUINE THE UNDERSTANDING WAS." IN SEPARATE ARTICLE "IRISH TIMES" COLUMNIST, WALTER ELLIS COMMENTS UNFAVORABLY ABOUT THE "BIG SIX" AND NOTES THAT "THE REST OF THE WEST HAVE BEEN FILED AWAY IN THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S WASTEPAPER BASKET." ELLIS GOES ON TO SAY, "FOR ALL THOSE EXCLUDED, THAT IS A SERIOUS MATTER, BUT FOR THE EEC IT IS SURELY INDICATIVE OF A FAILURE TO STAND TOGETHER - OR RATHER A FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES TO PERSUADE THEIR LARGER PARTNERS THAT THEIR CLAIMS MATTER AND THAT THEY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FORUM PURELY BY VIRTUE OF THEIR LACK OF SIZE."

2. "IRISH INDEPENDENT" IN NOVEMBER 17 EDITORIAL STRUCK HOPEFUL NOTE WHEN IT OBSERVED THAT HEADS OF SIX MOST POWERFUL NATIONS WERE FOCUSING EFFORTS ON RESTORING WORLD'S ECONOMIC CONDITION TO SOME DEGREE OF STABILITY. TWO DAYS LATER EDITORIAL IN SAME PAPER EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT "PIOUS PLATITUDES" EMANATING FROM MEETING. NOTING ABSENCE OF SMALLER COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRELAND AT MEETING, IT ALSO ASKED, IF THIS IS THE WAY THE MAJORS BEHAVE IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS, WHAT IS THE POINT IN HAVING A COMMON MARKET. EDITORIAL OPINED THAT MEETING SHOULD HAVE PRODUCED MORE CONCRETE RESULTS. "IRISH PRESS" EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS WHEN IT SAID, "WHEN THE VERBIAGE IS STRIPPED FROM THE FINAL DECLARATION THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT A FIRM RESOLVE TO END THE CURRENT WORLD RECESSION, THOUGH HOW IT IS TO BE DONE IS ANYBODY'S GUESS." "IRISH PRESS" WAS CRITICAL OF LACK OF COORDINATION OF EC POSITION.

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3. IN PUBLIC ADDRESS DELIVERED IN LIMERICK, NOVEMBER 17, FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD COMMENTED ON STRAINS THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING WITHIN THE EC. HE CITED RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT AS A CASE IN POINT, NOTING THAT FOUR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY MET WITH TWO NON-COMMUNITY COUNTRIES AND APPARENTLY DISCUSSED TRADE MATTERS "DESPITE THE FACT THAT THESE ARE AN EXCLUSIVE COMMUNITY COMPETENCE." FINANCE MINISTER RICHIE RYAN IN AN INTERVIEW IN BRUSSELS WAS QUOTED AS WELCOMING THE FACT THAT

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES HAD MET TO DISCUSS THE WORLD RECESSION.
HE NOTED THAT THEY HAD A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
RECESSION "WHICH THEY CAUSED BY THEIR OWN OMISSIONS."
CURLEY

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